

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-30 were pending in this application. Claims 3, 5-8, 11, 13-16, 19, 21-24, and 28-30 have been cancelled herein. All other claims have been amended herein. Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 20, and 25-27 will still be pending after entry of this response. Formal drawings are being submitted herewith. Applicants believe no additional fee is due at this time.

A brief telephone conversation took place between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney on November 29, 2005, in which the Examiner graciously assisted the attorney in determining that certain pages of his copy of the office action were missing. Applicants thank the Examiner for her kind assistance.

The Examiner has objected to the informal drawings submitted with the present application. New, formal drawings are included herewith. There have been no substantive changes to the drawings and no new matter is added.

The Examiner has objected to claim 29 due to a typographical error which made claim 29 dependent on itself. Claim 29 has been cancelled herein, rendering this objection moot. Applicants apologize for this error and thank the Examiner for moving the prosecution of the application forward despite the error.

The Examiner, in her recent office action, rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25, 26, 28, and 29 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent 5,963,659 to Cahill et al. ("Cahill"). While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner with respect to claims 3, 5-7, 11, 13-15, 19, 21-23, 28 and 29, these claims have been cancelled for consistency with the amendments to the independent claims discussed below, and so this rejection is moot with respect to the cancelled claims. Applicants would like to respectfully point out that there are differences between the system of Cahill and the system described by the Applicants as reflected in independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, all of which remain in the application. Firstly, the process of Applicants' invention includes making a determination as to whether a MICR digit error prevents a document from being forwarded, which is generally the case if the error occurs in the routing information as exemplified by the routing/transit (R/T) number of a check. If the error does not occur in the routing information, the document, whether paper or electronic, is forwarded. In Cahill by contrast, any error

(indicated by "!" characters) remaining in the MICR data after the initial read of a document causes the document to be diverted to either a repair pocket, or a repass pocket of the sorting system. Documents with errors are never forwarded. See Cahill, col. 18, line 65 through col. 19, line 39. All independent claims herein have been amended to recite that a document is forwarded when "the stored data field does not include routing information." Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 also now affirmatively recite the determining of whether "the stored data field" includes "routing information." Support for these recitations can be found in Fig. 2 of present application, as well as in paragraph [0021] of the specification.

Secondly, Applicants' invention allows already stored MICR data to be corrected automatically using an OCR of a stored image, where the OCR read meets the minimum confidence interval. In Cahill by contrast, the correction of MICR digit errors in the stored data (indicated by the "!" character) involves operator intervention, either the viewing of an image of, and manually correcting the data for, a check (see Fig. 5F and col. 20, lines 39-56 of Cahill), or decisioning as part of the repass mode (see col. 19, lines 40-47 of Cahill). While Cahill uses both OCR and MICR readers to try and obtain error-free data to store in the first place, these processes take place using the paper document and are never used to correct information previously stored with errors. Additionally, with Applicants' invention, an operator only becomes involved with correcting the data after the automatic correction of stored data fails. Applicants' independent claims have been amended herein to recite the applying of a correction to the error "in the stored data field using a comparison of a result of the OCR process" with the stored data field. The independent claims also recite that an image is displayed to an operator "only when the minimum confidence level for the correction" is not reached. Support for these recitations can be found in the specification in paragraphs [0024] through [0025]. All of the recitations discussed above are present in all remaining dependent claims through dependency. Applicants submit that the recitations discussed above render Applicants' claims patentably distinguishable from Cahill.

In addition to the above, Applicants also respectfully point out that dependent claim 2, as amended, recites the use of a plurality of amount portions of the image for the OCR process that is used to correct stored data, and dependent claim 3, as amended, includes a recitation of using three portions of an image for the OCR process used to correct stored

MICR data, wherein the three portions are "a MICR amount, a written amount, and a printed numerical amount." Cahill is completely silent on using the OCR process on multiple separate portions of the image, so that claims 2 and 3 are patentably distinguishable from Cahill for at least this additional reason.

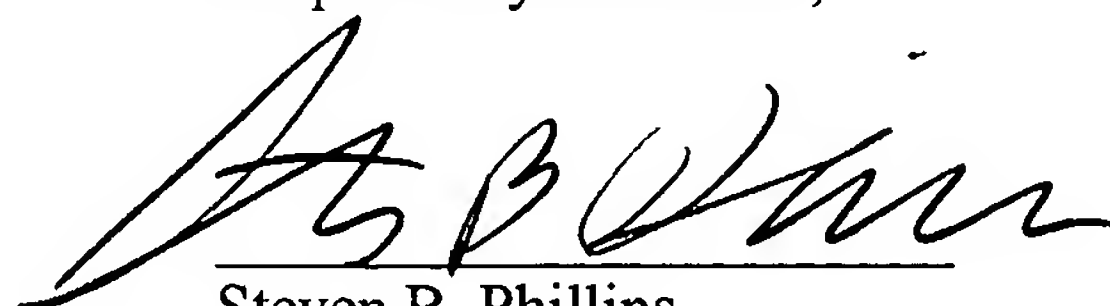
The Examiner has also rejected dependent claims 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 27, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Cahill in combination with U.S. Patent 5,740,271 to Kunkler et al. ("Kunkler"). While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, claims 8, 16, 24, and 30 have been cancelled herein for consistency, rendering the rejection moot with respect to these cancelled claims. Applicants respectfully point out that the remaining dependent claims include the recitations discussed above with respect to the rejection under section 102, and so are patentable for at least the same reasons. Additionally however, Applicants would like to point out that claims 12, 20, and 27 recite the use of "three portions" of an image for the OCR process, wherein those portions are "a MICR amount, a written amount, and a printed numerical amount." This recitation is supported in the specification in paragraph [0027]. As discussed above, Cahill is silent on the use of three portions of an image to correct previously stored data. In addition, Kunkler, only suggests using two portions of the image, the amount written in the "amount box" and the amount read from the MICR code. Thus, claims 12, 20, and 27 are not obvious in view of Cahill in combination with Kunkler for at least this additional reason.

For the above reasons, the Examiner has failed to show that every element of any claim is present in the art cited. Applicants believe they have responded to all of the concerns raised by the Examiner. Reconsideration of this application as amended is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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